

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

FDRE-00 SSO-00 /087 W

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R 102115Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 1309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN VIETNAM

SUMMARY: CANADA HAS REACTED IN HUMANITARIAN WAY TO
SUFFERINGS IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT UNWILLING TO DO MUCH MORE
THAN PROVIDE MUTED CRITICISM OF COMMUNIST ACTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. CANADIAN PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN RATHER MUTED TO
EVENTS OCCURRING IN VIETNAM, ALTHOUGH NEWS PAGES HAVE
DEVOTED MUCH SPACE TO FACTUAL STORIES. VERY FEW
EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED REGARDING COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN
SOUTH VIETNAM AND THOSE WHICH HAVE APPEARED HAVE
GENERALLY FOCOUSSED ON PROBLEM OF ORPHANS. THESE COMMENTS
HAVE DOUBTED VALUE OF AIRLIFTING ORPHANS TO THE U.S. AND
CANADA WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING HUMANITARIAN INSTINCTS BEHIND
SUCH ACTIONS.

2. EDITORIAL COLUMNIST CHARLES LYNCH, IN THOUGHTFUL AND
SOMEWHAT SARCASTIC MONTREAL GAZETTE ENTITLED "WE'LL SHED NO
TEARS OVER THE FALLEN REGIME" POINTS OUT THAT "...OUR
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DIPLOMATIC ALIGNMENTS WOULD INDICATE THAT OUR

SYMPATHIES WOULD BE WITH HANOI, NOT WITH SAIGON, JUST AS THEY ARE WITH PEKING, AND NOT TAIPEI, OR WITH HAVANA, AND NOT WASHINGTON, IN OUR CONFRONTATIONS. IF THIS IS A PROPER READING...THE MOMENT A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER IN SAIGON, WE WILL RECOGNIZE IT, AND SHED NO TEARS OVER THE FALLEN REGIME. OUR CONSCIENCES, IF THEY TROUBLE US AT ALL, WILL BE EASED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM COLLAPSED AS MUCH OF ITS OWN INTERNAL ROT AS FROM COMMUNIST PRESSURE...ACCORDING TO THIS PHILOSOPHY, THE PEOPLE...THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BECOME PART OF THE NEW REALITY...BUT WE HAVE RULED THE ULTIMATE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN ALL THESE LANDS TO BE SATISFACTORY, AND WE HAVE EXTENDED THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE. DOES ANYONE DOUBT THAT WE SHALL SHORTLY BE JOINING IN CELEBRATION OF THESE DATES IN VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN HISTORY AS DATES OF LIBERATION?"

3. THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH VIETNAM ALSO CAME UP IN HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD WHEN SEVERAL CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION MPS ASKED FONG MACEACHEN IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED THE MAJOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE BY NORTH VIETNAM. MACEACHEN REPLIED "...LAST WEEK I ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH CONTAINED THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA...I HAVE NOT MADE A PROTEST OR DENOUNCED THE SITUATION AS SUCH BUT HAVE MADE THE COMMENT THAT A MAJOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE IS UNDER WAY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DEPLORES THIS FACT..." SOME HAVE POINTED OUT APPARENT DISCREPANCY IN FACT THAT PARLIAMENT ISSUED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING US BOMBING OF VIETNAM BUT UNWILLING TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION AT PRESENT AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM.

4. COMMENT: CANADIAN CONSCIENCE OBVIOUSLY PRICKED BY EVENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT LYNCH ARTICLE PROBABLY CLOSER TO MARK THAN MOST CANADIANS WOULD LIKE TO ADMIT. CANADIANS REACT IN VERY HUMANITARIAN WAY TO SUFFERING SUCH AS THAT TAKING PLACE BUT POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE TENDED TO TAKE WHAT THEY CONSIDER A HARD AND REALISTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW OF SUCH EVENTS. PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0342
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750463/aaaacfpe.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN VIETNAM SUMMARY: CANADA HAS REACTED IN HUMANITARIAN WAY TO
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VS, CA, (LYNCH, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006